IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with strikethrough. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND and CANCEL the claims according to the following:

1.   (Currently Amended) An authentication information processing method comprising:

acquiring apparatus information of a user apparatus requesting a log-in;

determining a log-in procedure to be applied to the user apparatus on the basis of the apparatus information;

accepting a log-in operation from the user apparatus;

judging, based on the determined log-in procedure and on the accepted log-in operation, whether the log-in from the user apparatus is permitted or not;

storing a last log-in time from the user apparatus with the last log-in time related to the apparatus information; and

storing security level with the last log-in date related to the security level,

wherein in determining the log-in procedure, the log-in procedure is determined by raising the security level when a period longer than a predetermined period has elapsed since the last log-in time,

<u>wherein in determining the log-in procedure, the log-in procedure is determined by lowering the security level when a number of days since the last log-in date is smaller than a predetermined small number of days.</u>

2. (Original)   An authentication information processing method according to Claim 1, further comprising storing an accumulated log-in count from the user apparatus with the log-in count related to the apparatus information, wherein in determining the log-in procedure, the log-in procedure is determined in accordance with the accumulated log-in count.

3. (cancelled)

4. (previously presented) An authentication information processing method according to Claim 2, further comprising determining a security level for the user apparatus by referring to at least an accumulated log-in count, wherein the log-in procedure is determined in accordance with the security level and the security level is lowered when formal log-in procedure is repeated.

5. (Currently Amended) An authentication information processing device, comprising:

an apparatus information acquiring module acquiring apparatus information of a user apparatus requesting a log-in;

a log-in procedure determining module determining a log-in procedure to be applied to the user apparatus on the basis of the apparatus information;

a log-in accepting module accepting a log-in operation from the user apparatus;

a log-in judging module judging, based on the determined log-in procedure and on the accepted log-in operation, whether the log-in from the user apparatus is permitted or not;

a last log-in time storing module storing a last log-in time of the user apparatus, the last log-in time being related to the apparatus information; and

a security level storing module storing a security level with a last log-in date related to the security level,

wherein the log-in procedure judging module determines the log-in procedure by raising the security level when a period longer than a predetermined period has elapsed since the last log-in time,

wherein in determining the log-in procedure, the log-in procedure is determined by lowering the security level when a number of days since the last log-in date is smaller than a predetermined small number of days.

6. (Original) An authentication information processing device according to Claim 5, further comprising accumulated log-in count storing module storing an accumulated log-in count from the user apparatus with the accumulated log-in count related to the apparatus information, wherein the log-in judging module determines to the log-in procedure in accordance with the accumulated log-in count.

7.   (cancelled)

8.   (previously presented) An authentication information processing device according to Claim 6, further comprising security level determining module determining a security level for the user apparatus by referring to at least an accumulated log-in count, wherein the log-in procedure determining means determines the log-in procedure in accordance with the security level and the security level is lowered when formal log-in procedure is repeated.

9. (Currently Amended)   A storage medium that stored an authentication information processing program making a computer to execute a process authentication information, comprising:

acquiring apparatus information of a user apparatus requesting a log-in;

determining a log-in procedure to be applied to the user apparatus on the basis of the apparatus information;

accepting a log-in operation from the user apparatus; and

judging, based on the determined log-in procedure and on the accepted log-in operation, whether the log-in from the user apparatus is permitted or not;

storing a last log-in time from the user apparatus with the last log-in time related to the apparatus information; and

storing security level with the last log-in date related to the security level,

wherein in determining the log-in procedure, the log-in procedure is determined by raising the security level when a period longer than a predetermined period has elapsed since the last log-in time,

wherein in determining the log-in procedure, the log-in procedure is determined by lowering the security level when a number of days since the last log-in date is smaller than a predetermined small number of days.

10. (Original) A storage medium that stored an authentication information processing program according to Claim 9, further comprising storing an accumulated log-in count from the user apparatus with the accumulated log-in count related to the apparatus information, wherein in determining the log-in procedure the log-in procedure is determined in accordance with the accumulated log-in count.

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11. (cancelled)

12. (previously presented)   A storage medium that stored an authentication information processing program according to Claim 10, further comprising determining a security level for the user apparatus by referring to an accumulated log-in count wherein the log-in procedure is determined by referring to the security level and the security level is lowered when formal log-in procedure is repeated.